

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>206232US0PCT</b>	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES</b> <b>DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)</b> <b>CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR) <b>09/830677</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/FR99/02635</b>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>28 OCTOBER 1999</b>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>30 OCTOBER 1998</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>USE OF AN ADSORBENT GEL FOR ELIMINATING AND PURIFYING BIOMOLECULES</b>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>Mookambeswaran YIJAYALAKSHMI, et al.</b>					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).</li> <li>11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).</li> <li>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).</li> </ol>					
<b>Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</li> <li>20. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>21. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>22. <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail</li> <li>23. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</li> </ol>					
<b>Request for Consideration of Documents in International Search Report</b> <b>Notice of Priority / PCT/IB/304 / Drawings (8 sheets) / PCT/IB/308</b> <b>Article 19 Amendments (pages 16 &amp; 17)</b>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.53) <b>09/830677</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/FR99/02635</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>206232US0PCT</b>	
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24. The following fees are submitted:

<b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5) ) :</b>			<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO .....	<b>\$1000.00</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO .....	<b>\$860.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO .....	<b>\$710.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....	<b>\$690.00</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) .....	<b>\$100.00</b>			
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>		<b>\$860.00</b>		
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).		<b>\$130.00</b>		
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>				<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$990.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. (See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$990.00</b>
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$990.00</b>
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>				<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$990.00</b>
				Amount to be: refunded \$
				charged \$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of **\$990.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.


b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **15-0030**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



**22850**

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*Surinder Sachar*  
SIGNATURE

**Norman F. Oblon**  
NAME

**24,618**  
REGISTRATION NUMBER

**4-30-01**  
DATE

DOCKET NO. 206232US0PCT

PTO/PCT Rec'd 30 APR 2001

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Mookambeswaran VIJAYALAKSHMI, et al.

09 / 8 3 0 6 7 7

SERIAL NO.: New U.S. PCT Application (Based on PCT/FR99/02635)

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: USE OF AN ADSORBENT GEL FOR ELIMINATING AND PURIFYING BIOMOLECULES

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 has been established by a verified statement submitted herewith.
- ☒ Additional documents filed herewith: English Translation of Specification/Notice of Priority/PCT/IB/304 Preliminary Amendment/Request for Consideration/International Search Report/PCT/IB/308 Article 19 Amendments (pages 16 & 17) /Drawings (8 sheets)/Check for \$860.00

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)		(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL	* 9	MINUS	** 20	= 0	X9 =	\$	X18 =	\$ .00
INDEP	* 2	MINUS	*** 3	= 0	X40 =	\$	X80 =	\$ .00
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+135=	\$	+270=	\$
TOTAL						\$	TOTAL	\$ .00

A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

- XX Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- XX If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.



22850

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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\*If the entry in Column 2 is less than the entry in Column 1 write "0" in Column 3.  
\*\*If the "Highest Number Previously paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20 write "20" in this space.  
\*\*\*If the "Highest Number Previously paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3 write "3" in this space.

09/830677

206232US0PCT

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 APR 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
MOOKAMBESWARAN  
VIJAYALAKSHMI ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW US PCT APPLN. :  
(Based on PCT/FR99/02635)  
FILED: HEREWITH :  
FOR: USE OF AN ADSORBENT GEL :  
FOR ELIMINATING AND  
PURIFYING BIOMOLECULES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the biomolecule is serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.
6. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 for removing biomolecules from blood, with the exception of extracorporeal dialysis.
9. (Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device is an extracorporeal dialysis system.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are active in the present application. The claims are amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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206232US0PCT

**Marked-Up Copy**  
Serial No:  
Amendment Filed on:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--5. (Amended) Device according to claim 2 [or claim 4], characterized in that the biomolecule is serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

6. (Amended) Use of the device according to [claims 1 to 5] claim 1 for removing biomolecules from blood, with the exception of extracorporeal dialysis.

9. (Amended) Device according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, characterized in that the device is an extracorporeal dialysis system.--

8/PRTS

09/830677

WO 00/25911

PCT/FR99/02635

JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 APR 2001

**USE OF AN ADSORBENT GEL FOR ELIMINATING AND PURIFYING BIOMOLECULES**

The present invention relates to the use of an  
5 adsorbent gel combining the properties of size  
exclusion and affinity chromatographies (AdSEC, for  
"Adsorptive Size Exclusion Chromatography").

The principle of an AdSEC gel results from the  
fusion of two chromatographic techniques: size  
10 exclusion and affinity, so as to obtain supports  
combining the most advantageous properties thereof.

Size exclusion chromatography (gel filtration)  
allows the separation of molecules according to their  
steric bulk alone during their passive diffusion in a  
15 molecular sieve (gel). The largest molecules cannot  
penetrate the crosslinked matrix and are consequently  
excluded more rapidly from the column. This technique  
possesses the characteristic feature of not exhibiting  
interactions between the support and the molecules, and  
20 therefore of being relatively only slightly sensitive  
to the biochemical conditions (pH, ionic strength) of  
the solution. On the other hand, because of its  
principle of diffusion, the limiting factors for its  
use are generally a long operation time (because low  
25 flow rates are used), as well as a relatively limited  
deposition of samples (1 to 5% of the column volume).

Affinity chromatography is based on molecular  
interactions between the support (matrix onto which  
affinity ligands are grafted) and the molecules to be  
30 separated. Among these affinity ligands, immobilized  
metal ions, introduced in 1975 by Porath et al.  
(Nature, 1975, 21, 598-599), represent a method of  
separation based on the interactions (coordination  
bonds) between biomolecules in solution and metal ions  
35 immobilized on a support; Zn(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and  
Co(II) ions are the most commonly used. This is  
described as immobilized metal ion affinity  
chromatography (IMAC).

The combined use of the principles of size exclusion and affinity chromatographies (AdSEC) has been discussed by Porath et al. (Int. J. of Bio-Chromatogr., 1997, 3, 9 - 17). These authors have shown  
5 that iminodiacetic derivatives of dextran bearing metal ions as affinity ligand allow size exclusion and are capable of effectively concentrating solutions by their properties of adsorption and affinity. These authors have shown that an AdSEC gel column having a volume of  
10 5 ml could bind a high percentage of compounds having a molecular weight of between 5 kDa and 50 kDa and concentrate them about 1000 fold in a single operation.

Such supports make it possible to adsorb the smallest molecules (having affinity for the grafted  
15 ligand) at high rates and volumes (not permitted in gel filtration). Moreover, during the synthesis of the adsorbent gel, the threshold of accessibility to the affinity ligand may be modulated during the synthesis of the gel according to the size of the biomolecule to  
20 be removed or to be purified.

Terminal renal insufficiency currently affects 22,000 people in France of which 20,000 are treated by iterative hemodialysis. Only 1800 can hope to undergo transplants each year, knowing that a quarter of them  
25 will return within 5 years to hemodialysis because of a rejection while waiting for a new transplant.

The survival of the uremic individual, all methods considered, can exceed 25 years if they do not suffer from a severe cardiovascular condition. In this  
30 case, the quality of survival is profoundly impaired over the years by the osteoarticular complications of terminal uremia, at the forefront of which there are described erosive arthropathies subsequent to depositions of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin ( $\beta$ 2-M).

35 The mechanism of onset of these arthropathies begins as soon as the renal insufficiency responsible for accumulation of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin appears. This protein, having a molecular weight of 11,800 Da, will accumulate in the body over the years and become



selectively deposited at the level of the cervical disks, of the shoulders, of the hips and of the wrists. Cardiac and digestive depositions have been reported. These depositions will make fragile the joint and the  
5 adjacent bone up to total destruction of the joint. Thus, a breakdown of the vertebral bodies is observed which can cause medullary compression with loss of control of the four members, irreversible articular luxations, loss of prehension in the hands and  
10 pseudofractures of the hip. Ductal nerve compressions are observed such as the carpal tunnel syndrome.

These complications irremediably lead the uremic individual toward invalidity and the bedridden state which conventional methods of dialysis cannot  
15 prevent. A transplant allows these lesions to be stabilized.

To effectively prevent these complications, it is important to be able to effectively purify the polluting components of blood, in particular  $\beta_2$ -  
20 microglobulin, which are synthesized daily by the body and which are not, or not sufficiently, removed by the defective kidneys in dialyzed patients.

The purification of these various biomolecules can only be done on artificial membranes during  
25 dialysis, which are currently not sufficiently effective in spite of purification by filtration and nonspecific membrane adsorption.

The existing techniques for removing biomolecules, including  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin, are currently  
30 of 3 types:

#### **1. Removal of biomolecules by hemodialysis**

Hemodialysis is a technique intended for subjects suffering from partial or complete renal insufficiency (Figure 1). It consists in extracorporeal  
35 treatment of blood, providing the same functions as the kidney using a membrane process. The essential part of the hemodialyzer (1) is an exchange membrane, on either side of which circulate countercurrentwise the patient's blood and the dialyzate obtained from the

hemodialysis generator (2). This technique allows the purification of the small molecular weight compounds polluting the blood, such as urea, amino acids, inorganic salts, which are normally removed by the kidney. In the case of serum  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin, the various dialysis membranes commonly used possess two antagonistic properties:

- capture of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin by nonspecific adsorption on the membrane,
- generation of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin by detachment of this molecule which is noncovalently associated with the surface of nucleated blood cells in the major histocompatibility complex type I.

The degree of generation of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin is one of the criteria which define the biocompatibility of the membranes. Thus, endowed with these two antagonist properties, some membranes lead overall, during a hemodialysis session, to an increase in the concentration of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin, whereas others reduce it.

However, regardless of the membranes used, these results level out over periods of over one year. Thus, it has been observed that the plasma level of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin in uremic patients after fifteen months of dialysis was invariably increased to be between 40 and 50 mg/l (against 1 to 2 mg/l in healthy patients). Such problems of biocompatibility also exist for the other biomolecules.

## **2. Removal of the biomolecules by hemofiltration**

Once per month, the dialyzed individual is subjected to an ultrafiltration session. The module used (1) possesses a higher cut-off than in hemodialysis (average cut-off of 40 kDa) and allows the removal, by filtration, of the small molecules from plasma, including the smallest proteins, such as  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin (Figure 2). During an ultrafiltration session, the loss of plasma water is compensated by an equivalent supply of physiological saline (3).

The qualitative results, with respect to the removal of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin (purification and generation of this molecule by ultrafiltration membranes), are similar to those obtained in hemodialysis. There is thus a great influence of the nature of the membrane and of the duration of the hemofiltration. While some membranes appear to remove more  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin over 5 hours (one session), a leveling out of the results is also observed over time. At the quantitative level, it appears that about 50% of the serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin is removed per hemofiltration session. However, even if this technique is more effective for the purification of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin than hemodialysis, it remains inadequate for preventing and stopping the appearance of the disease. Furthermore, this technique has the disadvantage of removing numerous other small proteins apart from  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, since the ultrafiltrate is removed permanently.

### 20      **3. Column/hemodialyzer coupling**

This method has been presented as an alternative to the customary hemodialysis and ultrafiltration methods (Nakazawa et al., Int. J. Artif. Organs, 1994, 17, 203-208). It consists in a serial adsorption of the biomolecules on a porous cellulose gel (350 ml of adsorbent), followed by conventional hemodialysis. In the case of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, the gel is described as having a theoretical capacity for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin of 1 mg per ml of adsorbent. The results obtained are the best described in the literature, since in a patient in whom the initial  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin level was 30 mg/l, this system made it possible to reduce the  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin concentration to 10 mg/l final after 6 months of treatment. The authors presented an improvement in delaying the appearance of amyloid deposits in 2 cases out of 3, in their patients after therapy.

However, a drop in the concentration of some serum molecules (retinol binding protein, lysozymes) is

also observed after treatment. This phenomenon is attributable to the direct passage of the blood through the adsorbent, which is likely to cause problems of biocompatibility.

5           Thus, the existing techniques for removing  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin and other biomolecules have mainly two limits:

- the biocompatibility of the supports, in particular for the generation of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, that is to say  
10 the equilibrium between nonspecific adsorption on the membrane and the generation of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin during the passage of the cells in contact with them; this equilibrium determines the quantity of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin really removed during a hemodialysis or hemofiltration  
15 session.

- the specificity of the substrate: indeed, the techniques of hemofiltration and of aspecific binding with ligands coupled to gels lead to the undesirable removal of other molecules from serum.

20           A device for removing  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin or any other biomolecule should therefore combine satisfactory (quantitative) removal with specific (qualitative) removal of the molecule in question.

In the present invention, the inventors  
25 therefore set themselves as objective:

- the use, in a device intended to remove biomolecules, of an adsorbent gel combining the properties of size exclusion and affinity chromatographies, said gel essentially consisting of a polysaccharide matrix onto  
30 which is grafted a polymer coupled to an affinity ligand (AdSEC, for "Adsorptive Size Exclusion Chromatography" gel) and having an adjustable cut-off of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa,

- the use of an AdSEC gel for separating and purifying  
35 biomolecules having a molecular weight of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa,

- a device intended for the removal of biomolecules having a molecular weight of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa comprising an ultrafiltration module optionally

upstream and in series with a dialysis module and using an AdSEC gel column having an adjustable cut-off of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa, said column being mounted branching off from said ultrafiltration module; this device makes it possible to dispense with the problems of biocompatibility and to specifically remove the desired biomolecules,

- a device for purifying biomolecules having a weight of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa using an AdSEC gel column having an adjustable cut-off of between 2 kDa and 60 kDa, said column optionally branching off from a filtration system; this device makes it possible to separate normal biomolecules and biomolecules modified for example by glycation.

In one advantageous embodiment, the polysaccharide matrix is agarose or is based on an agarose derivative, the polymer may be polyethylene glycol (PEG) or polypropylene glycol (PPG) and the affinity ligand may be, for example, a metal-chelating agent coupled to metal ions, a protein, a peptide, an enzyme substrate or an enzyme inhibitor.

In a preferred embodiment, the adsorbent gel consists of a matrix based on an agarose derivative onto which is grafted polyethylene glycol coupled to iminodiacetic acid (IDA) itself coupled to metal ions, for example copper(I) ions; this complex is called IMAdSEC (*"Immobilized Metal ion Adsorptive Size Exclusion Chromatography"*) gel.

In an also preferred embodiment, the cut-off of the adsorbent gel is 20 kDa, thus allowing the removal or the purification of biomolecules whose molecular weight is less than 20 kDa, in particular serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

The purification system according to the present invention possesses the characteristic feature of placing the adsorbent gel for the biomolecule to be removed branching from the circulation system for purifying. Thus, when blood is purified, there is at no time contact between the gel and the formed elements of

Furthermore, unlike the other techniques currently used, the purification of the biomolecule to be removed or to be purified is carried out using a ligand which will retain only this molecule. This specificity is obtained by virtue of the double sieving of the ultrafiltration membrane (which retains for example the formed elements of the blood and the large serum molecules) and of the AdSEC gel which prevents access to the ligand for other molecules with affinity for the affinity ligand but whose size is greater than the cut-off of the gel.

The removal system according to the invention  
25 may be used for example in the context of kidney  
dialysis; in this case, there is an additional  
advantage linked to the fact that the fraction purified  
by passage over the AdSEC gel returns to the patient,  
thus limiting losses of other elements present in the  
30 blood.

- Figure 1 represents the general diagram for renal dialysis; (1) hemodialyzer, (2) hemodialysis generator, (3) pump,

- Figure 2 represents the diagram for a hemofiltration by ultrafiltration; (1) hemofilter, (2) hemodialysis generator, (3) physiological saline, (4) pump,

5 - Figure 3 illustrates the chromatographies on metal ions (copper) immobilized on 3 types of gels: **A** Sépharose® 4B-IDA-copper, peak 1: nonadsorbed proteins; peak 2: elution at pH 6.0; peak 3: elution at pH 5.0; peak 4: elution at 4.0; peak 5: elution at pH 3.0; peak 6: 25 mM EDTA. **B** Novarose®-IDA-copper, peak 1: nonadsorbed proteins; peak 2: elution at pH 6.0; peak 3: elution at pH 5.0; peak 4: elution at pH 4.0; peak 5: elution at pH 3.0; peak 6: 25 mM EDTA. **C** Novarose®-PEG/IDA-copper (IMAdSEC), peak 1: nonadsorbed proteins; peak 2: elution at pH 6.0; peak 3: elution at pH 5.0; peak 4: elution at pH 4.0; peak 5: elution at pH 3.0 (1st peak); peak 5' elution at pH 3.0 (2nd peak); peak 6: 25 mM EDTA,

20 - Figure 4 illustrates the electrophoretic analysis of the fractions separated by chromatography illustrated in Figure 3; the numbers correspond to the fractions separated by chromatography in Figure 3; **A** Sépharose® 4B-IDA-copper. **B** Novarose®-IDA-copper. **C** Novarose®-PEG/IDA-copper (IMAdSEC). This figure illustrates the specificity of the IMAdSEC gel for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin relative to the two other types of gel,

30 - Figure 5 illustrates the analysis by mass spectrometry of the protein composition of the starting ultrafiltrate and of the fraction retained on IMAdSEC gel. **A** (I) spectrum for the ultrafiltrate, (II) deconvolution of the spectrum (a) calculation of the mass of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin (b) calculation of the mass of albumin. **B** (I) spectrum for the purified fraction, (II) deconvolution of the spectrum and calculation of the mass of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin,

- Figure 6 illustrates the capacity of the IMAdSEC gel for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin,
- Figure 7 illustrates the mounting, on a branch, of a filtration module of the purification device according to the invention; (1) ultrafiltration module, (2) column containing the IMAdSEC gel, (3) pumps, (4) ultrafiltrate,
- Figure 8 illustrates the capacity of the device illustrated in Figure 7 for the removal of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin from an ultrafiltrate of a uremic patient,
- Figure 9 illustrates the electrophoretic analysis of the fractions separated by chromatography illustrated in Figure 8; 1: ultrafiltrate; 2: 15 minutes of passage over the IMAdSEC gel; 3: 30 minutes of passage over the IMAdSEC gel; 4: 120 minutes of passage over the IMAdSEC gel; 5: fraction eluted at pH 5.0; 6: fraction eluted at pH 4.0; 7 fraction eluted at pH 3.0; 8: fraction eluted with EDTA, 9: protein standard,
- Figure 10 represents a hemodialysis system comprising the device according to the invention; (1) hemofilter, (2) hemodialyzer, (3) IMAdSEC column, (4) hemodialysis generator, (5) blood pump and (6) ultrafiltration pump.

#### EXAMPLE 1

Determination of the specificity and of the capacity of an IMAdSEC gel: (Novarose<sup>®</sup>-PEG/IDA-copper) for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin

##### 1. Synthesis of the Novarose<sup>®</sup>-PEG/IDA-copper gel:

Step 1: coupling of PEG and creation of the cut-off of the gel:

10 g of Novarose<sup>®</sup> Act High 100/40 (INOVATA, Bromma, Sweden), previously dried by suction, are taken up in 5 ml of 1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, pH > 12 and 5 ml of deionized water. 5 ml of 1 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, pH > 12, 5 ml of deionized



water and 30 ml of  $\text{NH}_2\text{-PEG-NH}_2$  at 10% in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , pH > 12, are added. The mixture is left under gentle stirring at room temperature (22°C) for 1 to 24 hours depending on the desired cut-off (this time is 4 hours for a cut-off of 20 kDa which is the desired cut-off for  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin).

Step 2: coupling of the ligand : iminodiacetic acid (IDA).

The gel obtained in step 1 is rinsed on sintered material (by suction) with a solution of deionized water. It is resuspended in a solution comprising 15 ml of 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , pH > 12, 15 ml of deionized water, and 10 ml of a solution of IDA at 10% in 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , pH > 12. The mixture is left under gentle stirring at room temperature (22°C) for 48 hours. The IMAdSEC gel is rinsed on sintered material successively with deionized water, with a 1 M solution of sodium hydroxide, with deionized water, with a 0.1M solution of hydrochloric acid, and then with deionized water. The gel thus obtained is kept at 4°C in a solution of 20% ethanol until it is used.

Step 3: coupling of the metal ions (copper Cu II ions):

The metal load is prepared using an aqueous solution of copper sulfate at 50 mM under conventional conditions.

## **2. Preparation of the biological solutions**

The products are derived from the hemofiltration of blood during an ultrafiltration session in the context of the treatment of uremic patients (Figure 2). Ultrafiltrates (pH 7.2, 13 mS/cm) are used whose  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin concentration varies from 7 to 20 mg/l according to the patients.

## **3. Specificity of the Novarose®-PEG/IDA-copper gel for $\beta 2$ -microglobulin compared with gels without sieving Sépharose®4B-IDA-copper and Novarose®-IDA-copper**

PROCEDURE:

3 gels were tested: Sépharose<sup>®</sup>4B-IDA-copper, Novarose<sup>®</sup>-IDA-copper (IMAC gels), and Novarose<sup>®</sup>-PEG/IDA-copper (IMAdSEC gel), for their capacity to adsorb the molecules of the ultrafiltrate from a uremic patient. The Sépharose<sup>®</sup> 4B-IDA gel was prepared according to the protocol described by Sundberg and Porath (J. Chromatogr., 1974, 90, 87-98). The Novarose<sup>®</sup>-IDA gel results from the same protocol as that described above at point 1 for the synthesis of the IMAdSEC gel, where only the second and the third steps were carried out (no prior activation of the gel with PEG). 2 ml of gel are applied to a column (diameter 1 cm) and low-pressure chromatography (1 ml/min) is carried out. 10 ml of ultrafiltrate from a patient, whose  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin concentration is 20  $\mu$ g/ml, are passed over each of the 3 different gels in closed circuit for 20 minutes. The equilibration and the rinsing of each column after adsorption of the ultrafiltrate are performed with an MMA buffer of pH 7.0 (MMA = MOPS, MES, Acetate, 25 mM each). The elution is carried out with a discontinuous decreasing pH gradient (buffer, 25 mM MMA, pH 6.0, then pH 5.0, then pH 4.0 and 25 mM glycine at pH 3.0), and then with a solution of EDTA (50 mM) to detach the copper. The protein content is measured during the chromatography by reading the optical density ( $\lambda$  = 280 nm) with a detector placed at the outlet of the column. The assay of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin is carried out by an immunological assay (rabbit polyclonal antibody anti-human  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, Dako, Denmark) using a nephelometry apparatus (Beckman, USA). The various fractions are analyzed by SDS-PAGE electrophoresis, according to the protocol described by Laemmli (Nature, 1970, 227, 680-685), and staining of the proteins with silver nitrate. After desalting and concentration, the fractions are analyzed by mass spectrometry (ESI-MS for "ElectroSpray Ionisation Mass Spectrometry" technique), whose sensitivity, determining the mass to the nearest dalton, makes it possible to identify the molecules.

## RESULTS:

\* The chromatography on Sépharose<sup>®</sup> 4B-IDA-copper gel (Figure 3a) shows that, while the  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin has a high affinity for the chelated copper, its elution occurs in the same fractions as the albumin (Figure 4A). All the proteins of the ultrafiltrate are adsorbed onto the gel, which therefore exhibits no specificity for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

\* The chromatography on Novarose<sup>®</sup>-IDA-copper gel (Figure 3B) also shows that this type of gel allows the adsorption of all the proteins of the ultrafiltrate (Figure 4B). Its capacity in relation to copper which is lower than that of Sépharose<sup>®</sup>-4B-IDA results, on the other hand, in elutions of proteins during the discontinuous pH gradient, unlike the Sépharose<sup>®</sup> 4B-IDA gel (Figure 4B versus 4A). Like the latter, it does not offer specificity for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin (Figure 4B).

\* The chromatography on Novarose<sup>®</sup>-PEG/IDA-copper gel, on the other hand, allowed the adsorption of solely the  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin of the ultrafiltrate from the patient. Its elution takes place at pH 3.0 as two distinct peaks (Figure 4C).

In the three types of chromatography, the analyses by nephelometry confirm the complete disappearance of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin from the ultrafiltrate fraction passed over the 3 types of gel and its elution from the column.

ESI-MS analysis shows that the chromatography on IMAdSEC gel makes it possible to pass from a fraction consisting of a starting mixture: albumin +  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, to a fraction eluted at pH 3.0 which contains only  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin (Figure 5A versus 5B).

These results show the affinity of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin for the ligand (chelated metal, here copper) and the specificity offered by the molecular sieving (coupling of PEG) of the IMAdSEC gel compared with the conventional IMAC gels.

### 4. Capacity of the IMAdSEC-copper gel for $\beta$ 2-microglobulin

PROCEDURE:

50 ml of ultrafiltrate from a uremic patient, containing 350  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin (that is a  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin concentration of 7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) circulates in closed circuit for 150 minutes on 0.65 ml of IMAdSEC gel under the same chromatographic conditions as above (flow rate = 1 ml/min). The elution is carried out directly at pH 4.0 (Figure 6).

RESULTS:

After 150 minutes, the  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin concentration measured by nephelometry is 2.3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , that is a remaining  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin quantity of 115  $\mu\text{g}$ . Consequently, 235  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin were bound to the 0.65 ml of gel, which corresponds to a binding capacity of the IMAdSEC-copper gel of 360  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . SDS-PAGE and ESI-MS analysis of the fractions was carried out as described above. The quantity of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin, eluted at pH 4.0, is about 180  $\mu\text{g}$  instead of 235  $\mu\text{g}$  expected. The difference may be explained by the absence of measurement of the rinsing and EDTA fractions which are also likely to contain  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin.

These results suggest that, taking into account these performances and this specificity for  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin, a column of 500 to 750 ml of IMAdSEC-copper gel would make it possible to remove 250 mg of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin, a quantity which corresponds to 5 liters of blood at a  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin concentration of 50 mg/l.

**EXAMPLE 2**

**Separation and purification of  $\beta 2$ -microglobulin by a device comprising the coupling of an ultrafiltration module and an IMAdSEC column**

PROCEDURE

The assembly represented in Figure 7 is used. The ultrafiltration module (1) used is composed of 100 Polysulfone hollow fibers drawn from a commercial ultrafiltration module model Fresenius F80.

50 ml of ultrafiltrate from a uremic patient ( $\beta$ 2-microglobulin concentration = 7  $\mu$ g/ml) are passed in a closed circuit for 3 hours on the ultrafiltration/column of IMAdSEC gel (0.65 ml of IMAdSEC gel) minimodule assembly. The chromatography conditions are those of Example 1, namely: buffer, 25 mM MMA, pH 6.0, then pH 5.0, then pH 4.0 and 25 mM glycine at pH 3.0, then 50 mM EDTA to elute the copper chelated on the gel.

After 3 hours, the  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin concentration in the reservoir is measured by nephelometry.

#### RESULTS

The concentration passes from 7  $\mu$ g/ml of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin (that is a starting quantity of 350  $\mu$ g) to about 1  $\mu$ g/ml (50  $\mu$ g of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin remaining). Consequently, about 300  $\mu$ g of  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin were bound to the 0.65 ml of IMAdSEC gel, which corresponds to a binding capacity of the IMAdSEC gel for  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin of 461  $\mu$ g/ml.

ESI-MS (Figure 8) and SDS-PAGE (Figure 9) analysis of the fractions show that the  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin was adsorbed specifically by the IMAdSEC gel. It is eluted as two main fractions at pH 4.0 and pH 5.0.

These results suggest that the IMAdSEC gel could be useful for the separation of biomolecules and their isoforms such as for example normal  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin and glycated  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 10 April 2000  
(10.04.00); original claims 1-16 replaced by new claims  
1-9 (2 pages)]

5

1. Device for removing biomolecules comprising an  
ultrafiltration module optionally upstream and in  
series with a dialysis module, characterized in that  
this device further comprises a column containing an  
10 adsorbent gel combining the properties of size  
exclusion and affinity chromatographies, said adsorbent  
gel consisting essentially of a polysaccharide matrix  
onto which is grafted a polymer coupled to an affinity  
ligand and having an adjustable cut-off of between  
15 2 kDa and 60 kDa, said column being mounted branching  
from said ultrafiltration module.

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in  
that the adsorbent gel consists of a matrix based on an  
agarose derivative onto which is grafted polyethylene  
20 glycol coupled to iminodiacetic acid itself coupled to  
copper(I) ions and having a cut-off of 20 kDa.

3. Device for separating and purifying  
biomolecules comprising a column containing an  
adsorbent gel combining the properties of size  
25 exclusion and affinity chromatographies, said gel  
consisting essentially of a polysaccharide matrix onto  
which is grafted a polymer coupled to an affinity  
ligand and having an adjustable cut-off of between  
2 kDa and 60 kDa, said column being optionally mounted  
30 branching from a filtration module.

4. Device according to claim 3, characterized in  
that the adsorbent gel consists of a matrix based on an  
agarose derivative onto which is grafted polyethylene  
glycol coupled to iminodiacetic acid itself coupled to  
35 copper(I) ions and having a cut-off of 20 kDa.

5. Device according to claim 2 or claim 4, characterized in that the biomolecule is serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

6. Use of the device according to claims 1 to 5 for removing biomolecules from blood, with the exception of extracorporeal dialysis.

7. Use according to claim 6, characterized in that the device comprises an adsorbent gel consisting of a matrix based on an agarose derivative onto which is grafted polyethylene glycol coupled to iminodiacetic acid itself coupled to copper(I) ions and having a cut-off of 20 kDa.

8. Use according to claim 7, characterized in that the biomolecule is serum  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin.

9. Device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the device is an extracorporeal dialysis system.

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### Abstract

The invention concerns the use of an adsorptive size exclusion chromatography gel, said gel essentially consisting of a polysaccharide matrix whereon is grafted a polymer coupled with an affinity ligand and having a cleavage threshold ranging between 2 kDa and 60 kDa for eliminating a purifying biomolecules.



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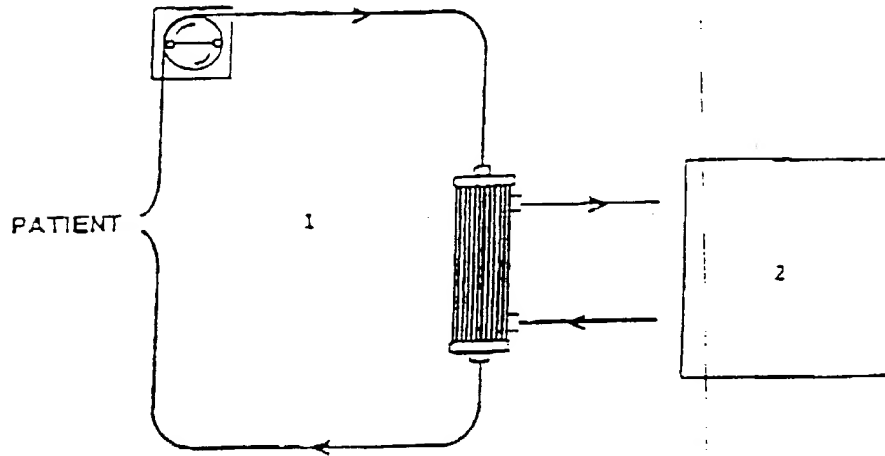


Figure 1

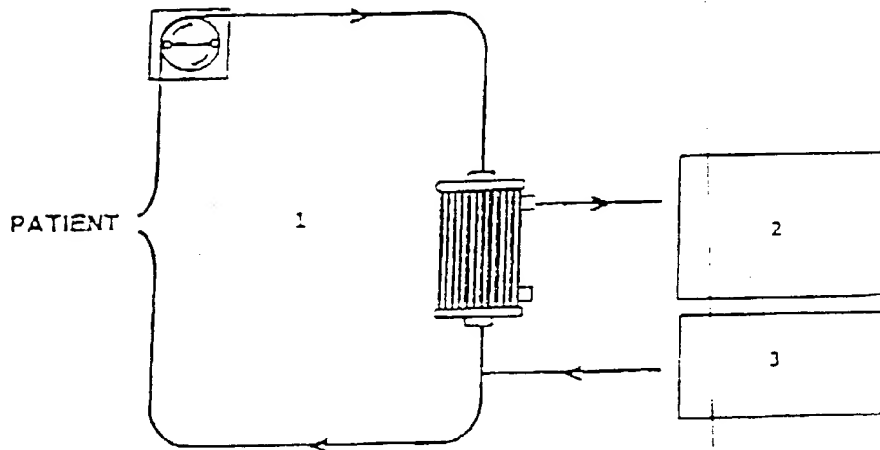


Figure 2

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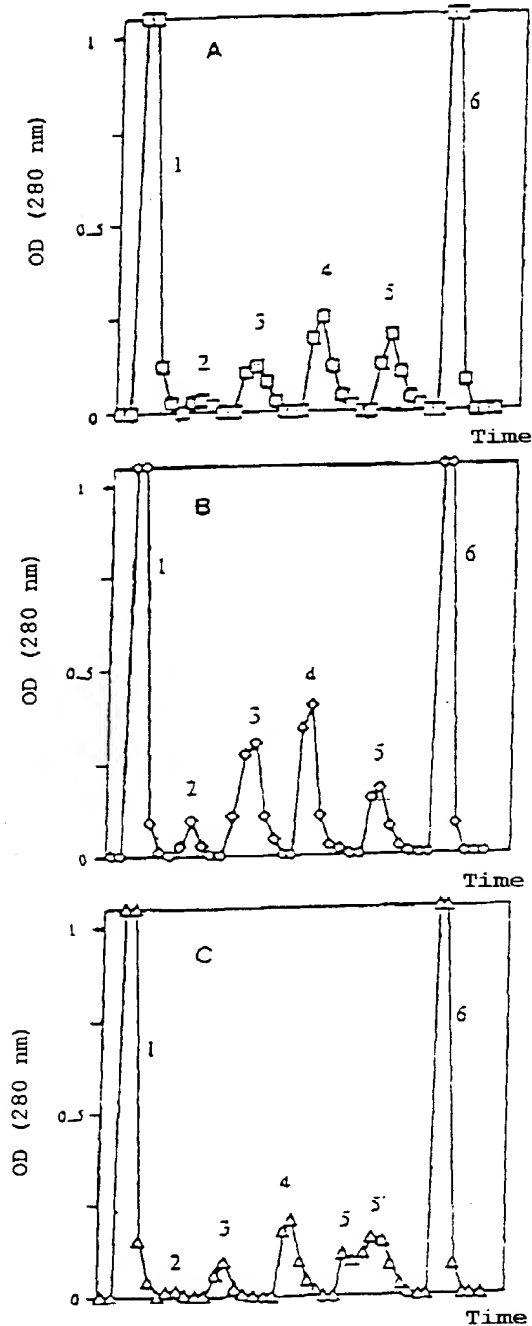


Figure 1

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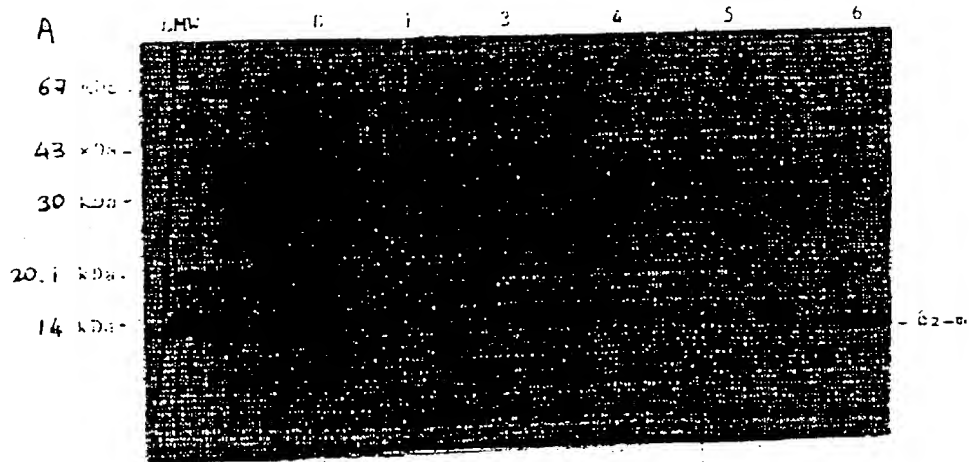


Figure 4a

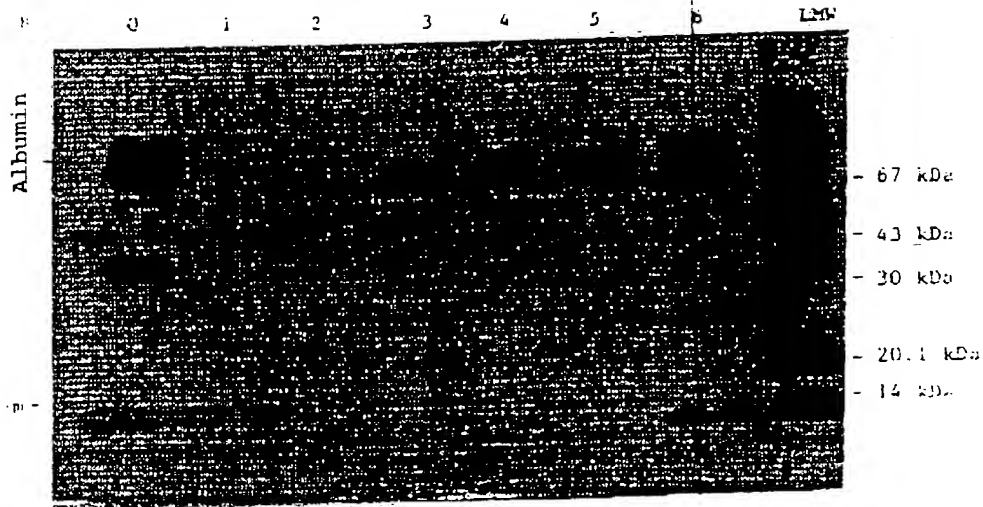


Figure 4b

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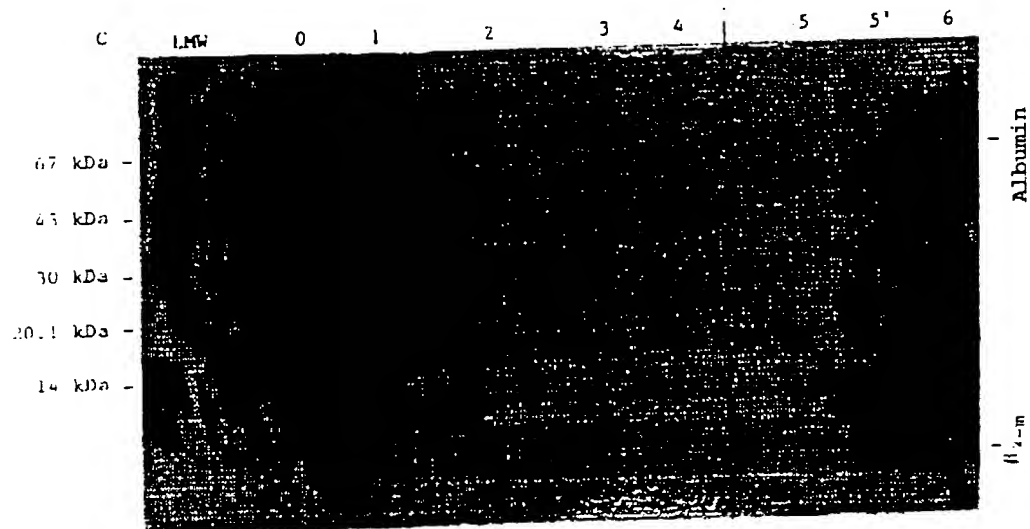


Figure 4c

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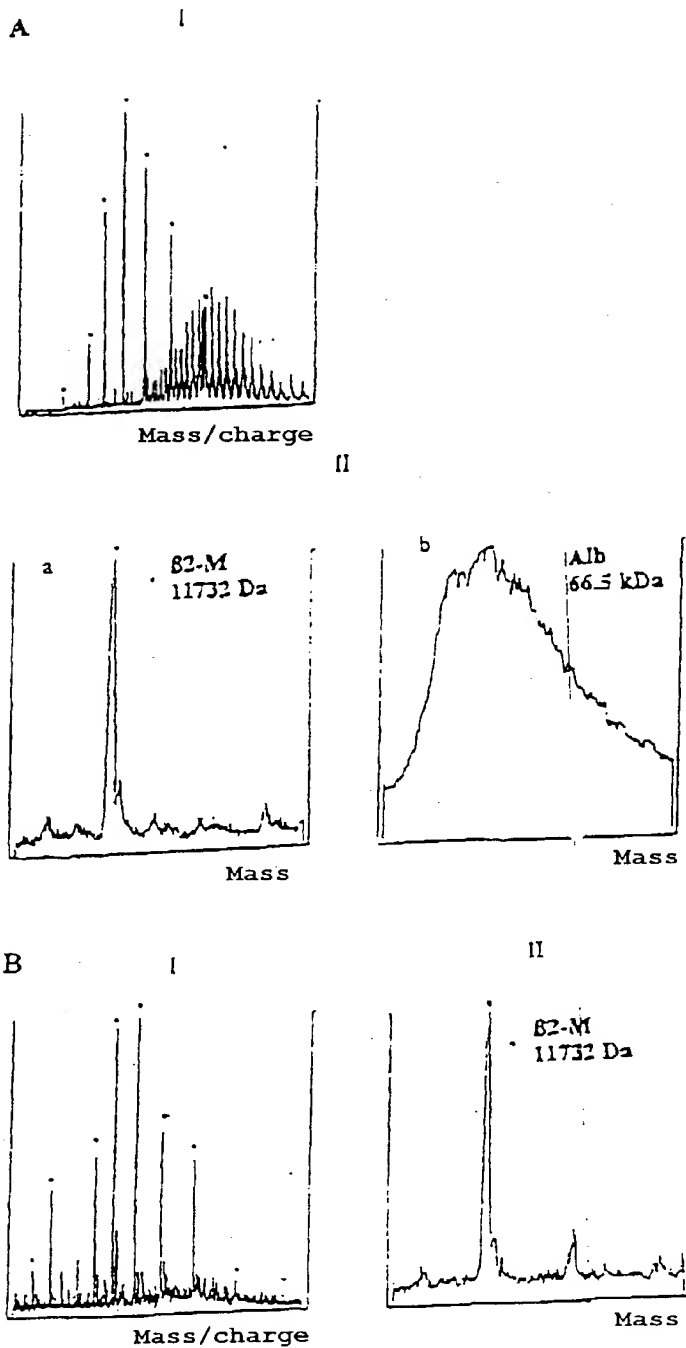


Figure 5

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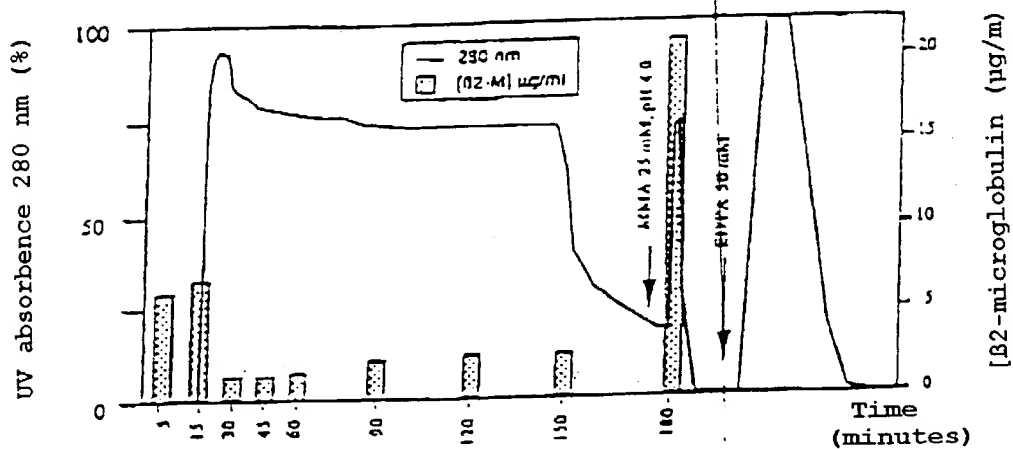


Figure 6

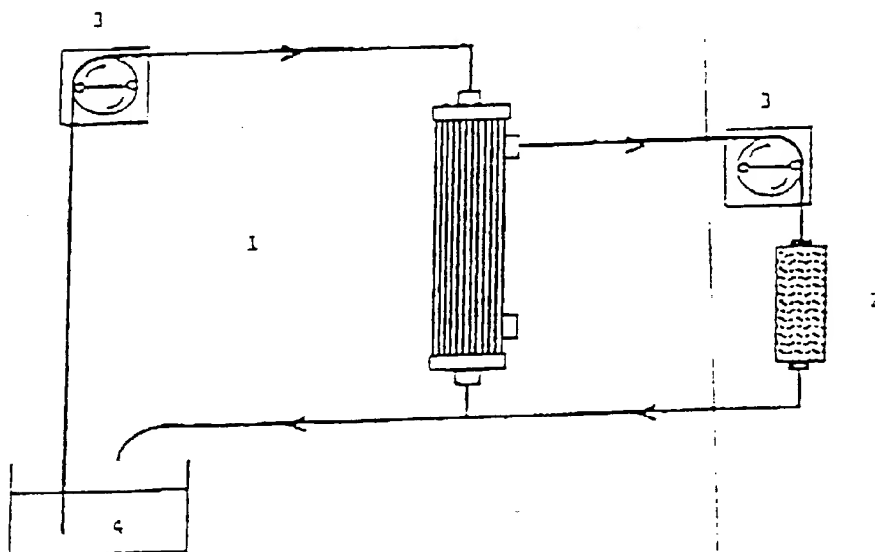


Figure 7

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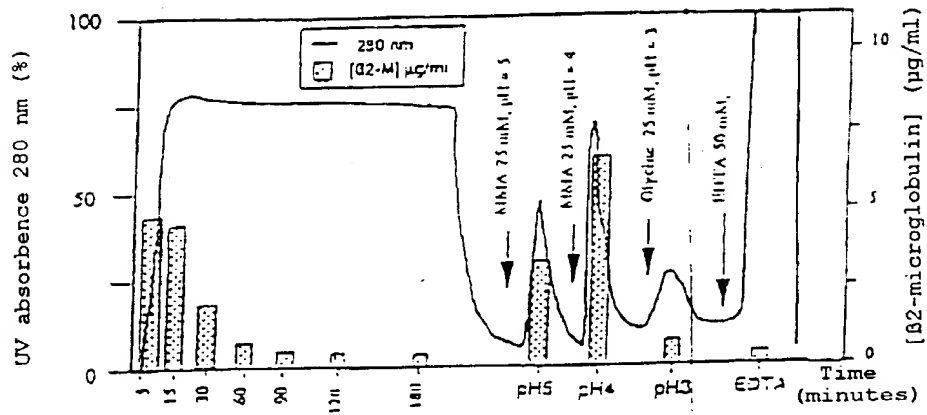


Figure 8

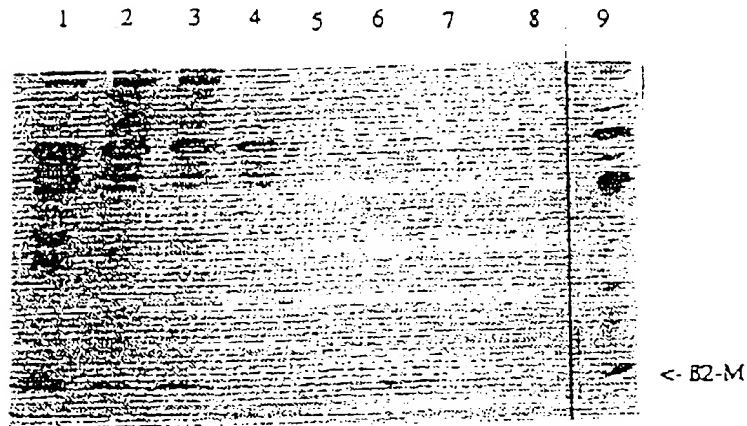


Figure 9

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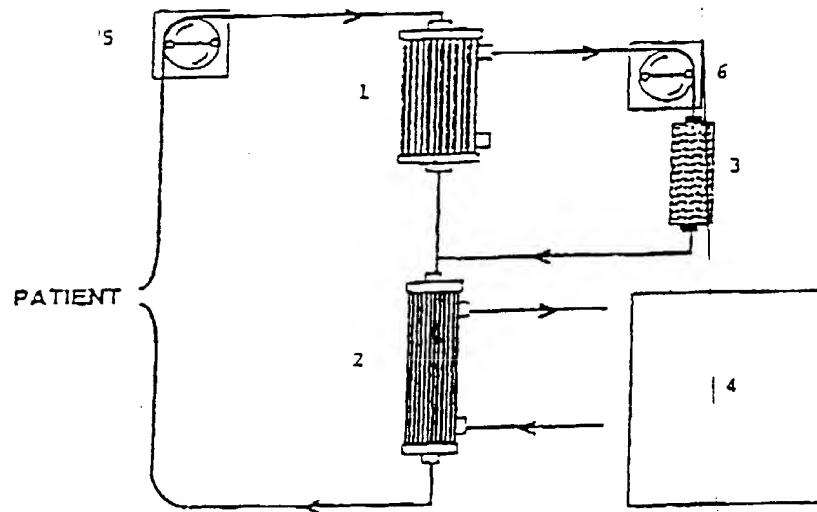


Figure 10



N/Ref: SG-061644/38 LIS

DOCUMENT A #B

**Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application  
Déclaration et Pouvoirs pour Demande de Brevet  
French Language Declaration**

En tant l'inventeur nommé ci-après, je déclare par le présent acte que :

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

et dont la description est fournie ci-joint à moins

☐ ci-joint

☐ a été déposée le

sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis ou le numéro de demande international PCT

et modifiée le

(le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait références ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that :

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**Use of an adsorbent gel for eliminating and purifying biomolecules**

the specification of which :

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on

as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number. PCT/FR99/02635 filed on October 28, 1999

and was amended on

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

### French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des États-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les États-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, en cochant la case, j'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior Foreign application(s)

Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s) dans un autre pays.

(Number) (Country)  
(Numéro) (Pays)  
  
98/13655 FRANCE

(Number) (Country)  
(Numéro) (Pays)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(e) du Code des États-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux États-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

(Application No.) (Filing Date)  
(N° de demande) (Date de dépôt)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 120 du Code des États-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux États-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les États-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, § 112 du code des États-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande :

(Application No.) (Filing Date)  
(N° de demande) (Date de dépôt)

Je déclare que par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, véridique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour véridique et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la section 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des États-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below, and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority claimed  
Droit de priorité  
revendiqué

(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

30/10/1998

(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

☒ Yes  
Oui

☐ No  
Non

☐ Yes  
Oui

☐ No  
Non

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.) (Filing Date)  
(N° de demande) (Date de dépôt)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)  
(Statut) (breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)  
(Statut) (breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

## French Language Declaration

POUVOIRS : En tant que l'inventeur cité, je désigne par la présente l'(les) avocat(s) et/ou agent(s) suivant(s) pour qu'ils poursuive(nt) la procédure de cette demande de brevet et traite(nt) toute affaire s'y rapportant avec l'Office des brevets et des marques : (mentionner le nom et le numéro d'enregistrement).

POWER OF ATTORNEY : As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to persecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith : (list name and registration number)

29 Norman F. Oblon, Reg. No. 24,618; Marvin J. Spivak, Reg. No. 24,913; C. Irvin McClelland, Reg. No. 21,124; Gregory J. Maier, Reg. No. 25,599; Arthur I. Neustadt, Reg. No. 24,854; Richard D. Kelly, Reg. No. 27,757; James D. Hamilton, Reg. No. 28,421; Eckhard H. Kuesters, Reg. No. 28,870; Robert T. Pous, Reg. No. 29,099; Charles L. Gholz, Reg. No. 26,395; William E. Beaumont, Reg. No. 30,996; Jean-Paul Lavalleye, Reg. No. 31,451; Stephen G. Baxter, Reg. No. 34,884; Richard L. Treanor, Reg. No. 36,379; Stephen P. Weihrouch, Reg. No. 32,829; John T. Goolkasian, Reg. No. 26,142; Richard L. Cinn, Reg. No. 34,305; Stephen E. Lipman, Reg. No. 30,011; Carl E. Shlier, Reg. No. 34,426; James J. Kubaski, Reg. No. 34,648; Richard A. Neifeld, Reg. No. 35,299; J. Dereck Mason, Reg. No. 35,270; Surinder Sachar, Reg. No. 34,423; Christina M. Gadiano, Reg. No. 37,628; Jeffrey B. McIntyre, Reg. No. 36,867; William T. Enos, Reg. No. 33,128; Michael E. McCabe, Jr., Reg. No. 37,182; Bradley D. Lytle, Reg. No. 40,073; and Michael R. Ascy, Reg. No. 40,294, with full powers of substitution and revocation.

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1-00 Nom complete de l'unique ou premier inventeur <b>VIJAYALAKSHMI Mookambeswaran</b>		Full name of sole or first inventor	
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(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

### French Language Declaration

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(nom et numéro de téléphone)

Direct Telephone calls to : (name and telephone number)


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Nom complet de l'unique ou premier inventeur <b>VIJAYALAKSHMI Mookambeswaran</b>		Full name of sole or first inventor	
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Domicile <b>60200 COMPIEGNE (France)</b>		Residence	
Nationalité <b>Française</b>		Citizenship	
Adresse Postale <b>5 Square Charles Gounod 60200 COMPIEGNE (France)</b>		Post Office Address	
Nom complet du second co-inventeur, le cas échéant <b>PILLIOT Olivier</b>		Full name of second joint inventor, if any	
Signature de l'inventeur	Date <b>05 Mai 2001</b>	Second inventor's signature	Date
Domicile <b>02200 SOISSONS (France) 69 290 SAINT-GENIS-LES-OLIERES</b>		Residence <b>FRX</b>	
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(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventor.)

## French Language Declaration

3-00 Nom complete du troisième co-inventeur, le cas échéant <b>LEGALLAIS Cécile</b>		Full name of third joint inventor, if any	
Signature de l'inventeur 	Date <b>09/05/01</b>	Third inventor's signature	Date
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Nationalité Française		Citizenship	
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Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Fourth inventor's signature	Date
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Nationalité		Citizenship	
Adresse Postale		Post Office Address	
Nom complete du sixième co-inventeur, le cas échéant		Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
Domicile		Residence	
Nationalité		Citizenship	
Adresse Postale		Post Office Address	

(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

## French Language Declaration

Nom complet du troisième co-inventeur, le cas échéant		Full name of third joint inventor, if any	
<b>LEGALLAIS Cécile</b>			
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Française			
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Nom complet du quatrième co-inventeur, le cas échéant		Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any	
<b>MORINIERE Philippe</b>			
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Fourth inventor's signature	Date
	3/5/01		
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Nom complet du cinquième co-inventeur, le cas échéant		Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any	
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Fifth inventor's signature	Date
Domicile		Residence	
Nationalité		Citizenship	
Adresse Postale		Post Office Address	
Nom complet du sixième co-inventeur, le cas échéant		Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	
Signature de l'inventeur	Date	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
Domicile		Residence	
Nationalité		Citizenship	
Adresse Postale		Post Office Address	

(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

